

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 13 and 17 are amended.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Lewis during the October 12 telephone interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gates (U.S. Patent No. 6,531,997 B1) in view of Inoue (JP 401086116A). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, neither Gates nor Inoue, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest a time period in which the voltage is applied that contributes to the image display overlaps with a time period in which the voltage is applied that does not contribute to the image display, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 7, 13 and 17.

The Office Action appears to admit that Gates does not disclose or suggest the above noted-features of the claimed invention. For example, on page 3, the Office Action asserts that Gates discloses "a positive pulse addressing signal 16 preceding the negative pulse 18 so long as the negative pulse does not have sufficient amplitude to cause the particles to move...." (emphasis added).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Gates does not disclose or suggest a time period in which the voltage is applied that contributes to the image display overlaps with a time period in which the voltage is applied that does not contribute to the image display, as claimed in claims 1, 7, 13 and 17.

Inoue does not make up for the above-noted deficiencies of Gates. Inoue discloses in Fig. 1 that the elements 1 are glass sheets of an electrophoretic display device. Nowhere does Inoue disclose or suggest the features of claims 1, 7, 13 and 17.

Thus, independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 17 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-16 and 18-20 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: December 14, 2004

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